



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 30, 2004

H.R. 4027

A bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make available to the University of Miami property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Virginia Key, Florida, for use by the University for a Marine Life Science Center

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 14, 2004

H.R. 4027 would authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to allow the University of Miami to construct and operate a multidisciplinary marine life science center on federal land located on Virginia Key, Florida. Under the bill, NOAA would make the building site available to the university through a lease or other long-term agreement; no permanent conveyance of any federal land or other property interest would be authorized. Finally, the bill would authorize NOAA to lease from the university any facilities built at this site, subject to the availability of appropriations.

Based on information obtained from NOAA, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4027 would have no significant effect on the federal budget. We expect that the marine life science center would be constructed at no cost to the federal government. It is possible that NOAA might lease some of the facilities in the new center once it has been built, but CBO expects that such future transactions would have no significant effect on the agency's operating budget and would depend on appropriation of the necessary amounts. It is also possible that the University of Miami could pay NOAA for the use of the site under a rental or licensing agreement, but we estimate that any resulting offsetting receipts would be minimal. Enacting H.R. 4027 would have no effect on federal revenues or other direct spending.

H.R. 4027 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis